GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:376
ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007
WASTAGE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
Rawale Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of fruits and vegetables which go waste due to non-availability of post-harvest technologies and supply chain efficiencies in the farm sector; and

(b) the steps taken to improve the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) and (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 376 DUE FOR REPLY ON 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2007.

(a) & (b): The wastage of fruits and vegetables due to improper post-harvest management and supply chain inefficiencies, has been estimated to be to the extent of 25% to 30%, valued at Rs. 20,000 crore to Rs. 50,000 crore annually, as reported in the fifth and final report of the National Commission of Farmers.

For horticulture crops, the Government has launched two Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. `Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States and Sikkim` since 2001-02 which has been extended to the Himalayan States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during 2003-04 and `National Horticulture Mission` during 2005-06 for the remaining States. These schemes provide assistance for creating post-harvest infrastructure, including cold storage facilities as back- ended subsidy @ 33.33% of the project cost with a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakh per unit for hilly and tribal areas and @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakh per unit for other states. During 2006-07, a new Component has been sanctioned under the National Horticulture Mission to facilitate setting up of the Modern Terminal Markets in the country, which will have state-of-the-art cold chain and other infrastructure and will help in establishing an efficient supply chain right from the farm gate to the consumer/ processor/ exporter.

The National Horticulture Board (NHB) is also implementing programmes aimed at reducing the losses of horticulture produce through the schemes `Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of cold storage/storages for Horticulture Produce` having the same norms and `Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post − Harvest Management` providing back ended subsidy @ 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 30.00 lakhs for North-Eastern/Hilly/Tribal Areas States and Rs. 25.00 lakhs for other States. Besides, Ministry of Food Processing Industry (MFPI) has launched schemes for encouraging development of food processing industries including horticulture crops. The schemes includes (a) Technology Upgradation/Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing for which assistance is given in the form of grant, subject to 25% of the plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% upto Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas, and (b) Scheme for Infrastructure Development for Food Park for which assistance is given in the form of grant at the rate of 25% of the project cost in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 4 crores for provision of common facilities like cold storage, food testing and analysis laboratory, effluent treatment plant, processing facilities, power, water supply, etc.

The Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing a Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, titled `Gramin Bhandaran Yojana` for Construction/ Renovation of Rural Godowns in the country through the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection since 01.04.2001. One of the objectives of the Scheme is to provide scientific storage near the production centres (excluding municipal corporation areas) in order to reduce the losses. Under the Scheme, subsidy @ 25% is given to all categories of farmers, Agriculture Graduates, cooperatives, Central Warehousing Corporation/ State Warehousing Corporations etc. All other categories of individuals companies and corporations are entitled to subsidy @ 15% of the project cost. In case of North-Eastern States/ Hilly areas for SC/ST entrepreneurs and their cooperatives, subsidy is provided @ 33.33%.

A reform-linked Central Sector Scheme, entitled `Development/ Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization` has also been launched by the Ministry of Agriculture on 20.10.2004 to facilitate development of marketing infrastructure, market user common facilities, infrastructure for direct marketing of agricultural commodities, infrastructure for supply of production inputs and need-based services, infrastructure for e-trading, market intelligence etc. and mobile infrastructure for post-harvest operations (excluding transport equipment) by providing credit-linked back- ended capital investment subsidy to

entrepreneurs and direct assistance to State agencies. Assistance to State agencies is also being provided under the Scheme for the modernization and upgradation of existing marketing infrastructure. Under this Scheme, the rate of subsidy is 25% of the capital cost of the project. In case of North Eastern States, hilly and tribal areas, in the States of Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and to entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC)/ Scheduled Tribes (ST) and their cooperatives, the rate of subsidy is 33.33% of the capital cost of the project. For each project, maximum amount of subsidy is restricted to Rs.50 lakh and 60 lakh respectively. In respect of infrastructure projects of State Agencies, there is no upper ceiling on subsidy to be provided under the scheme.